

and biometric data of a known or exemplar signature image.

*Director* means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

*Electronic communication* refers to any information conveyed through electronic means and includes electronic forms, applications, elections, and requests submitted by email or any other electronic message.

*Electronic Official Personnel Record Folder (e-OPF)* means the electronic Official Personnel Folder application that will replace the current paper personnel folder across the Government.

*Electronic retirement and insurance processing system* means the new retirement and insurance processing system created by OPM's Retirement Systems Modernization (RSM) initiative.

*Employee* means an individual, other than a Member of Congress, who is covered by CSRS or FERS.

*Enterprise Human Resources Integration (EHRI)* means the comprehensive electronic personnel record-keeping and analysis system that supports human resources management across the Federal Government.

*FEGLI* means the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program established under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code.

*FEHB* means the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program established under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

*FERS* means the Federal Employees' Retirement System established under chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code.

*Member* means a Member of Congress as defined by section 2106 of title 5, United States Code, who is covered by CSRS or FERS.

*Non-cryptographic method* is an approach to authenticating identity that relies solely on an identification and authentication mechanism that must be linked to a specific software platform for each application.

*Personal identification number (PIN) or password* means a non-cryptographic method of authenticating the identity of a user of an electronic application, involving the use of an identifier known only to the user and to the electronic system, which checks the identi-

fier against data in a database to authenticate the user's identity.

*Public/private key (asymmetric) cryptography* is a method of creating a unique mark, known as a digital signature, on an electronic document or file. This method involves the use of two computer-generated, mathematically-linked keys: a private signing key that is kept private and a public validation key that is available to the public.

*RFEHB* means the Retired Federal Employees Health Benefits Program established under Pub. L. 86-724, 74 Stat. 849, 851-52 (September 8, 1960), as amended.

*Shared service centers* are processing centers delivering a broad array of administrative services to multiple agencies.

*Shared symmetric key cryptography* means a method of authentication in which a single key is used to sign and verify an electronic document. The single key (also known as a "private key") is known only by the user and the recipient or recipients of the electronic document.

*Smart card* means a plastic card, typically the size of a credit card, containing an embedded integrated circuit or "chip" that can generate, store, or process data. A smart card can be used to facilitate various authentication technologies that may be embedded on the same card.

#### § 850.104 Implementing directives.

The Director must prescribe, in the form he or she deems appropriate, such detailed procedures as the Director determines to be necessary to carry out the purpose of this part.

#### § 850.105 Agency responsibility.

Agencies employing individuals whose retirement records or processing are affected by this part are responsible for counseling those individuals regarding their rights and benefits under CSRS, FERS, FEGLI, FEHB, or RFEHB.

#### § 850.106 Electronic signatures.

(a) Subject to any provisions prescribed by the Director under § 850.104—

(1) An electronic communication may be deemed to satisfy any statutory or regulatory requirement under